United Nations A/C.2/65/L.71

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 November 2010

Original: English

**Sixty-fifth session**
**Second Committee**
Agenda item 20 (g)
**Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ms. Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.43**

# Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

*Recalling further* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[2]

*Taking* into account Agenda 21[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

*Reaffirming* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and its principles,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

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*Reaffirming* its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[6] of 1997 and in the Nusa Dua Declaration[7] of 2010,

*Taking note* of the role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the organization of the three ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on a science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

*Reiterating* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Recalling* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[8] for developing countries,

*Recognizing* the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session and the decisions contained therein;[9]

2. *Welcomes* the Nusa Dua Declaration[7] of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

3. *Recognizes* that the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral environment agreements contribute to more effective international environmental governance and better protection and management of the global environment, and in this context, invites Member States to ratify and implement relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

4. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, held on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, also welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions, and in this regard, encourages cooperation and coordination among the three chemical and waste conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements;

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[7] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

[8] See UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25).

5. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,[10] particularly through its Quick Start Programme;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved during the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury[11] held in Stockholm in 2010 and encourages further efforts towards a successful conclusion to the negotiations, and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to ensure full support to the negotiation process with the goal of completing the instrument prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with the aim of agreeing on a legally binding instrument on mercury, to include provisions, among others, to reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury and to specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, recognizing that the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under a legally binding instrument is dependent on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance;

7. *Recognizes* the important role played by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, particularly in the implementation of the international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and in this regard, encourages Member States and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of the regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of assistance for the implementation of the three conventions;

8. *Recalls* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/1 of 26 February 2010 entitled "International environmental governance", takes note of the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives[12] and the invitation to the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continued process of improving international environmental governance and as a contribution to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also takes note of the ongoing work of the consultative group of ministers that will present its final report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session;

9. *Further encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme, and takes note of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats of the three conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the three Conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of all these instruments;

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[10] See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.

[11] See UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21.

[12] UNEP/GCSS.XI/4, annex.

10. *Underlines* the need to further advance and accelerate the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[8] with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

11. *Recognizes* that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this regard, requests the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute, notably by providing ideas and proposals reflecting its competencies, experiences and lessons learned, to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

13. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard, notes that the fifth Global Environment Outlook and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations exercises at the country level, including United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and "Delivering as One" programmes for those countries implementing this initiative;

15. *Reiterates* the instrumental role of regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and calls for increased support to strengthen the human, financial and programmatic capacities of all regional offices;

16. *Notes* the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[13] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[14] including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

17. *Notes also* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/4,[9] the Busan outcome,[15] decision X-(L.25) adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity at its tenth meeting and the decision adopted by the Programme and External Relations Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contained in Executive Board document 185 EX/43, and requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the Platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform at the earliest opportunity;

18. *Calls* on international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries in the plenary meeting;

19. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at strengthening the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems and further mainstreaming the United Nations Environment Programme marine and coastal strategy in line with the United Nations Millennium Declaration[16] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[17]

20. *Welcomes* the efforts to date by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and in this regard, urges the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;

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[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[14] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[15] A/65/383, annex.

[16] See resolution 55/2.

[17] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

21. *Also welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

23. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its 26th session".